(a) whether it is a fact that the Parliamentary Forum of SC and ST Members of Parliament have demanded establishment of at least one residential school in every district of the country for imparting quality education to the children belonging to SC/ST families;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon by her Ministry, being nodal administrative Ministry for the development of SCs/STs along with the results achieved, if any, with regard to this demand; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendation was referred to the Department of Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development. The Department in turn forwarded the recommendation to all State Governments/UT Administrations for action, as the primary responsibility for setting up of residential schools lies with the States/ UTs. However, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment is operating following schemes to provide residential schools for Scheduled Caste students:

(i) Special Education Development Programme for Scheduled Caste Girls belonging to low literacy level; and (ii) Grant-in-aid to Voluntary Organizations for Scheduled Castes.

Ministry of Tribal Affairs is also implementing certain schemes of residential schools for Tribal students.

Recognition to institutions working in area of adoption of children in H.P.

† l636. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether keeping in view the adoption of children, the Government of Himachal Pradesh through its letter dated the 1st March, 1996 has requested the Government to grant recognition to the institutions, namely Himachal Pradesh Child Welfare Council, Mini Secretariat, Shimla-2, Indira Ladies Club, Nahan, District Sirmaur, Women Welfare Division Chamba and Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust, Rockwood, Shimla; and

(b) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.